

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-39 are pending in this case. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 8, 10-13, 15-17, 24-26, 28-37, and 39 are amended by the present amendment. Amended Claims 1-3, 5-7, 8, 10-13, 15-17, 24-26, 28-37, and 39 are supported by the original disclosure. Therefore, Amended Claims 1-3, 5-7, 8, 10-13, 15-17, 24-26, 28-37, and 39 add no new subject matter.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1, 12, 13, 17-22, 30, and 35-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kahn (U.S. Pat. No. 7,013,273). Claims 9, 14, 27, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kahn. Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 23-26, 28, 29, 31, 33, and 34 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Firstly, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter.

Secondly, Applicants found minor informalities that are corrected by the amendments to Claims 3, 5-7, 24, 25, 31, and 32.

Thirdly, Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection for the following reasons.

Amended Claim 1 recites an information display apparatus comprising a speech detection unit configured to detect a playback state of playback speech, which includes at least one of a sound volume of the playback speech and a playback speed, and a closed caption display control unit configured to display the closed caption video on the display device and to change a display state of the closed caption video depending on the detected playback state. In other words, the speech detection unit detects a speech speed and a sound volume based on the audio data, and the closed caption display control unit controls the display state of the closed caption video depending on the detected playback state, which is the speech speed and sound volume. Amended Claim 1 includes substantially an element of allowed Claim 2.

Kahn describes a speech recognition based captioning system to display text information by processing audio data from a television signal. In the system, audio data (input signal) which is not changed in sound volume, etc. or before changing the sound volume, etc. is used to perform speech recognition. The main processor 10 of Kahn produces a closed caption obtained by processing audio data as display data and uses a user's instruction, given through an infra-red remote control or other means, as a control input. Therefore, Kahn does not teach or suggest controlling the display state of a closed caption video depending on the detected playback state, that is, a speech speed and sound volume. Accordingly, Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are patentable over Kahn.

Independent Claim 12 recites an ambient noise detection unit configured to determine an ambient noise level of an ambient noise, other than a playback speech referring to a playback speech signal, via a microphone, and a closed caption display control unit configured to change the display state of the character information that is displayed on the display device according to the detected noise level. The ambient noise detection unit of Claim 12 does not process the audio data of a television signal, but rather detects ambient noise coming in via a microphone and controls the display state of the character information according to the detected noise level.

Kahn describes suppressing noise in the audio data of a television signal with a secondary processor 34. Kahn does not teach or suggest controlling the display state of character information according to an ambient noise level, as defined in Claim 12. Thus, Claim 12 and all claims dependent therefrom are patentable over Kahn.

Independent Claim 17 recites an information display apparatus comprising a playback control unit configured to control a playback unit to control a playback state and playback sound volume, a playback state detector configured to detect the playback state of the video and the speech that are played back by the playback unit, and a closed caption display control

unit configured to change the display state of the character information according to the playback state.

Kahn describes generating a closed caption by processing audio data as display data and using a user's instruction given by an infra-red remote controller or another means as a control input. Kahn does not teach or suggest controlling the display state of the character information according to the playback state, as defined in Claim 17. Thus, Claim 17 and all claims dependent therefrom are patentable over Kahn.

Independent Claim 30 recites a display selection unit configured to select a multi-screen display mode for displaying a plurality of videos on multiple screens, and a closed caption display control unit configured to change the display state of the character information concerning each of the videos displayed on the multiple screens when the multi-screen display mode is selected. Kahn does not teach or suggest controlling the display of the closed caption based on a multi-screen display mode, as defined in Claim 30. Thus, Claim 30 and all claims dependent therefrom are patentable over Kahn.

Independent Claim 35 recites changing a display state of character information associated with the playback speech according to the detected playback state. As discussed with respect to Claim 1, Kahn does not teach or suggest changing the display state of character information based on the detected playback state. Thus, Claim 35 is patentable over Kahn.

Independent Claim 36 recites changing a display state of the character information associated with the playback speech based on the ambient noise. As discussed with regard to Claim 12, Kahn does not teach or suggest controlling the display state of character information according to the ambient noise level. Therefore, Claim 36 is patentable over Kahn.

Independent Claim 37 recites changing a display state of character information associated with a video and the speech according to the playback state of the video. As

discussed with regard to Claim 17, Kahn does not teach or suggest change the display state of character information based on the playback state. Therefore, Claim 37 is patentable over Kahn.

Independent Claim 38 recites changing a display state of the character information associated with the video and the speech with respect to each of the screens when the multi-screen display mode is selected. As discussed with respect to Claim 30, Kahn does not teach or suggest controlling the display of the closed caption based on the multi-screen display mode. Thus, Claim 38 is patentable over Kahn.

Independent Claim 39 recites a means for instructing the computer to change a display state of the character information according to the playback state of the video and the speech. As discussed with respect to Claims 17 and 37, Kahn does not teach or suggest changing the display state of character information based on the playback state. Therefore, Claim 39 is patentable over Kahn.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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